

Building Capacity for Community Based Trail Stewardship

2010 Trails and Greenways
Conference Session



Introductions



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Overview

- Stewardship needs and options
- Stewardship Sources Catalog
- Facilitated discussion
- Follow-up

Tahoe rim trail



Workshop Goals

Short-Term

- Increase awareness
- Create a database (The Catalog)
- Improve coordination

Long-Term

- Create new options
- Improved standards
- Create *perpetual* stewardship of trails
- Improve connections to *real* green jobs



The Center's Summer Jobs Program

Definition

Merriam-Webster's:

“The conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.”



Americorps Volunteers

Stewardship Projects

- Site clean-up and debris removal
- Invasive vegetation management
- Habitat restoration and enhancement
- Maintaining roads, trails, and facilities



Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Stewardship Projects



*The Center's
Nature Walks
Program*

- Site monitoring
- Volunteer Patrol
- Education
 - nature walks
 - guided hikes
 - workshops



Environmental Education

Importance of Stewardship

Trails need stewardship:

- Connects people to open space
- Protects the natural resources
- Keeps people safe



Challenges

- Finding the means to operate, maintain and manage in perpetuity
- Money and staff
- Applies to settings from urban to rural to remote



California Conservation Corps

Options - Staff

- Permanent staff are increasingly hard to fund
- Workload can be seasonal and cyclical
- Non-professionals with training and supervision



The Center's Summer Jobs Program

Options - Volunteers

Agencies depend on volunteers, partners, and grants of aid or funding to meet their needs.



- Very effective
- Mutual benefit
- Requires coordination
- Inconsistent availability
- Specific work focus

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Options - Corps



California Conservation Corps

- California Conservation Corps
- Regional Conservation Corps
- Inmate crews
- Non-profit organizations
- Private contractors

Stewardship Catalog

- Prepared with the help of an intern
- Based on internet search
- Many local or regional organizations
- A few statewide organizations
- No “one stop shopping” for stewardship services



*The Center's Environmental
Education Program*

Stewardship Catalog

Putting the 'Green' back in 'Green Jobs'

- Efforts focused on at training and job placement in 'green jobs'
- No current development in stewardship
- Focused on energy

CivicCorps



Potential Outcomes

- More knowledge of options
- More connections
- Grow and improve The Catalog (web access)
- Discussion and actions lead to more and better options



Potential Outcomes



Visioning:

- An organization that coordinates standards and training
 - A means to endow and obtain highly qualified stewardship staff
 - Assured long-term results for O&M and mitigation efforts
 - Better coordination from federal to state to region to local on “green” jobs
 - New ways for people to relate to and benefit from trails and nature
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Discussion

- Is this a significant challenge/opportunity?
- What types of help are most needed?
- What types of help do you use? (good solutions)
- If this is worth pursuing, how best to do it?



Sign-up sheet for follow-up

Wrap-up

Questions?



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